

Missionary Immunization Guidelines

JANUARY 2014

(Please discard ALL previous immunization guidelines)

Immunizations are not a requirement for missionary service, but those who decline or are unable to receive immunizations will serve in their home countries where their risk for contracting and transmitting the illness is not increased. Vaccines must be approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in the United States or by an approved government agency internationally. Some vaccines contain live viruses and certain precautions apply. MMR, chickenpox, influenza by nasal spray, yellow fever, and shingles vaccines contain live viruses. They must be given on the same day, or separated by 28 days before another live virus vaccine can be given. For example, one could receive MMR, chickenpox and influenza vaccines on day 1, but would have to wait 28 days before receiving the yellow fever vaccine. **Each missionary should complete their immunizations BEFORE entering the Missionary Training Center (MTC).**

Immunizations Required for ALL Countries

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis: Tdap is the preferred vaccine. A primary series should have been received in childhood. A booster dose is required within five years.

Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR- live virus): This vaccine is not needed for those born before 1957. Two doses of MMR should have been received, usually at 12 months and 4-6 years of age. If only one dose, or if a person is unsure, a second dose should be given.

Hepatitis A: Hepatitis A is a two-dose series given on days 0, and 180 for lifetime protection. One dose protects for two years. Persons from developing countries may not need Hepatitis A vaccine.

Hepatitis B: Hepatitis B is a three-dose series given on a 0, 30, and 180 day schedule. At least two doses must be received before entering the MTC, but gives only 60-70% protection during the mission. If only two doses are given, a third dose should be given after the mission to complete the series.

Combined Hepatitis A/Hepatitis B (Twinrix): This is available and is approved for an accelerated schedule of 0, 7, and 21-30 days, with a fourth dose recommended after 12 months for lifetime protection. If a person has started Hepatitis A and/or Hepatitis B vaccines separately, Twinrix may be used to complete the immunization.

Influenza: Either injectable or inhaled (live virus) vaccine should be given at least two weeks **BEFORE** entering the MTC during September through March in the northern hemisphere and March through August in the southern hemisphere to prevent epidemics under dormitory living conditions. Missionaries should be certain they receive the current vaccine.

In some locations, all vaccines may not be available, and immunizations may need to be completed during MTC training. An appropriate fee may be charged to the missionary or home stake for this service. With reduced duration of the MTC training period, every attempt should be made by the family and/or local priesthood to complete immunizations before entering the MTC.

Limited Required Immunizations

Each missionary will be notified if these vaccinations are required in their assigned mission.

Polio (P): Only those serving in countries where polio is endemic (see table) need to have a booster dose. If one's vaccination status is unknown, and current protection is needed, two injections of inactivated polio vaccine (IVP) should be given at least four weeks apart. Some countries use the oral live virus vaccine; either method is acceptable.

Typhoid (TY): Two types of vaccine are available (not always in developing countries). The preferred method is an oral dosing, taking one capsule on a 0, 2, 4, and 6 day schedule. The oral vaccine should not be taken while on an antibiotic. The injection is a single dose, and is the method used at MTCs because of dosing problems with the oral capsules in that setting.

Yellow Fever (YF- live virus): Vaccine is available only in travel clinics or health departments, and should be given in advance of entering the MTC because of common mild adverse reactions (10-30%). Those over 60 years of age, especially if they have never previously been vaccinated for YF, have increased reaction risks, some of which are serious. If the YF risk is low, a medical waiver may be advisable.

Japanese Encephalitis (JE): The present United States vaccine (JEV or Ixiaro) is given in two injections four weeks apart with the second dose given at least one week before travelling to the country of risk. Missionaries who stay at the MTC only 1-2 weeks MUST get the first dose at least three weeks before entering the MTC, so that the second dose may be given at the proper interval. We require JEV for those going to hyperendemic (high-risk) countries as the CDC advises, but simply recommend it for endemic countries. Missionaries should understand the risk, benefit, and cost of this vaccine, and then make an informed decision if they are going to an endemic country. See table under the JE column: JEV is required in countries marked X, and optional in those marked OPT.

Recommended Immunizations

Meningitis: All young adult missionaries should receive meningococcal meningitis vaccine at least 10 days before entering an MTC. If one dose has been received more than five years before beginning the mission, a booster dose is advisable. Senior missionaries going to high-risk countries (see table) also must be vaccinated. It is now approved for those over 65 years of age.

Pneumonia: This single injection vaccine is especially advised for seniors over 65 years of age, those with chronic heart or lung conditions including asthmatics taking prevention medications, and those with sickle cell disease, diabetes or post splenectomy or other immune challenged conditions.

Chickenpox (Varicella- live virus): This two-injection, live virus vaccine is given four weeks apart and is advised for those who have never been vaccinated or had the disease. Persons born before 1980 in the United States do not need the vaccine.

Shingles (H. Zoster- live virus): Seniors over 50 years of age may reduce the risks of shingles and neuralgia with a single dose of this live virus vaccine (Zostrix).

Specific immunizations are required for missionaries serving in the countries so indicated in the following Table, as is malaria prevention. Countries not listed require the basic immunizations.

Legend

X	Immunization or malaria prevention required
TY	Typhoid
P	Polio
YF	Yellow Fever
Men	Meningitis
JE	Japanese Encephalitis
OPT	Optional JEV—make an informed choice
Mal	Malaria prevention necessary, including medication, repellent, insecticide and net use
Mp	Insect prevention needed, parts of country may need medications

Immunizations checked with an X are REQUIRED in those countries

COUNTRY	TY	P	YF	Men	JE	Mal
Afghanistan	x	x				x
Algeria	x					
Angola	x	x	x	x		x
Argentina (MTC)	x		x-*1			
Azerbaijan						Mp
Bahamas, The	x					
Bahrain	x					
Bangladesh	x				x	x
Belize	x					Mp
Benin (Africa)	x	x	x	x		x
Bermuda	x					
Bhutan	x				x	Mp
Bolivia	x		x			Mp
Botswana (malaria in north only)	x			x		Mp
Brazil (MTC)	x		x			Mp
Brunei	x				x	
Burkina Faso	x	x	x	x		x
Burma (Myanmar)	x				x	x
Burundi	x	x	x	x		x
Cambodia	x				x	Mp
Cameroon	x	x	x	x		x
Cape Verde (Praia mission)	x			x		Mp
Central African Republic	x	x	x	x		x
Chad	x	x	x	x		x
Chile (MTC)	x					
China (including Hong Kong)	x				Opt	Mp
Christmas Island (Australia)	x					
Colombia (MTC)	x		x			Mp
Comoros	x			x		x
Congo	x	x	x	x		x
Cook Islands (New Zealand)	x					
Costa Rica	x					Mp
Côte d'Ivoire (formerly Ivory Coast)	x		x	x		x
Cuba	x					
Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly-Zaire)	x	x	x	x		x
Djibouti	x			x		x
Dominican Republic (MTC)	x					Mp
East Timor (Indonesia)	x				x	x
Ecuador	x		x-*2			Mp
Egypt	x					
El Salvador	x					Mp
Equatorial Guinea	x		x	x		x
Eritrea	x		x	x		x
Ethiopia	x	x	x	x		x
Fiji (Suva)	x					
French Guiana	x		x			Mp
French Polynesia (incl. Island groups)	x					
Gabon	x		x	x		x

COUNTRY	TY	P	YF	Men	JE	Mal
Gambia, The	x		x	x		x
Georgia						Mp
Ghana (MTC)	x		x	x		x
Grenada	x					
Guadeloupe (France)	x					
Guam (U.S.)	x					
Guatemala (MTC)	x					Mp
Guinea	x		x	x		x
Guyana	x		x			Mp
Haiti	x					x
Honduras	x					Mp
India	x	x			x	x
Indonesia	x				x	Mp
Iran	x	x		x		Mp
Iraq	x					
Jamaica	x					
Japan (Islands of Kyushu & Shikoku)					OPT	Mp
Jordan	x					
Kazakhstan	x					
Kenya	x	x	x	x		x
Kiribati (formerly Gilbert Islands)	x					
Korea, South	x				OPT	Mp
Kuwait	x					
Kyrgyzstan	x					
Laos	x				x	x
Lebanon	x					
Lesotho	x					
Liberia	x		x	x		x
Libya	x					
Macau	x					
Madagascar (Antananarivo mission)	x			x		x
Malawi	x			x		x
Malaysia (malaria in rural areas)	x				x	x
Maldives	x					
Mali	x	x	x	x		x
Marshall Islands	x					
Mauritania	x		x	x		x
Mauritius	x					
Mayotte (French territorial collectivity)	x					x
Mexico (MTC)	x					Mp
Micronesia (Federated States of)	x					
Mongolia	x			x		
Morocco	x					
Mozambique	x			x		x
Namibia	x			x		Mp
Nauru	x					
Nepal	x				x	Mp
New Caledonia (France)	x					
Nicaragua	x					Mp
Niger	x	x	x	x		x
Nigeria	x	x	x	x		x
Niue (New Zealand)	x					
Northern Mariana Islands	x					
Oman	x					
Pakistan	x	x			OPT	x
Palau	x					
Panama (S. Panama, YF prevent. as needed)	x		x			Mp
Papua New Guinea	x				x	x
Paraguay	x		x			Mp
Peru (East, Cusco, Piura, Iquitos and Huancayo mission) - (MTC)	x		x			Mp
Peru (Trujillo, Lima North, Lima South, West. and Central, Arequipa, and Chiclayo missions) - (MTC)	x					Mp
Philippines (MTC)	x				OPT	Mp
Puerto Rico	x					
Qatar	x					

COUNTRY	TY	P	YF	Men	JE	Mal
Réunion (France)	x					
Russia	x					
Rwanda	x	x	x	x		x
Samoa (formerly Western Samoa)	x					
Samoa, America (U.S.)	x					
São Tome & Príncipe	x		x			x
Saudi Arabia	x			x		Mp
Senegal	x		x	x		x
Seychelles	x					
Sierra Leone	x		x	x		x
Singapore	x				x-*3	Mp
Solomon Islands	x					x
Somalia	x	x	x	x		x
South Africa (MTC)	x					Mp
Sri Lanka	x				x	x
Sudan	x	x	x	x		x
Suriname	x		x			Mp
Swaziland	x			x		x
Syria	x	x				Mp
Tahiti	x					
Taiwan					OPT	Mp
Tajikistan	x	x				Mp
Tanzania	x	x		x		x
Thailand	x				x	Mp
Togo	x		x	x		x
Tokelau (New Zealand)	x					
Tonga	x					
Trinidad and Tobago	x		x			
Tunisia	x					
Turkey	x					Mp
Turkmenistan	x	x				
Tuvalu	x					
Uganda	x	x	x	x		x
United Arab Emirates	x					
Uruguay	x					
Uzbekistan	x	x				
Vanuatu	x					x-*4
Venezuela	x		x			Mp
Vietnam	x				x	x
Virgin Islands (British and U.S.)	x					
West Indies Mission	x		x			
Western Sahara	x					
Yemen	x					x
Zambia	x	x		x		x
Zimbabwe	x			x		x

*1 - YF vaccine is needed the Posadas, Resistencia, and Salta Missions.

*2 - Missionaries going to the Lima, Peru MTC and then to Ecuador to serve need to have YF vaccine because the Ecuador government requires it when entering from Peru.

*3 - The country Singapore has little risk of JE, but the mission headquartered in Singapore includes Malaysia and Brunei which are high incidence areas.

*4 - Missionaries from countries other than Vanuatu, but serving there, should be tested for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD) in case treatment with primaquin is needed.

Source: Missionary Public Health Committee
Revised: January 2014